

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-02 ISO-00 /005 R

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DRAFTED BY: ARA/ECA:RELETZ:TR

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 092254

FOLLOWING REPEAT MEXICO 04584 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BRASILIA
CARACAS GEORGETOWN MOSCOW GENEVA IAEA VIENNA USCONS MEXICO
BY POUCH DATED APR 05:

QTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 04584

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM UR BR GY VE MX

SUBJECT: OPANAL'S LATEST MOVES

1. IN A CALL ON OPANAL SECRETARY GENERAL GROSS ESPIELL
WITH VISITING PROFESSOR DR. GEORGE QUESTER OF CORNELL
UNIVERSITY, THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON LATEST OPANAL
DEVELOPMENTS EMERGED:

A) SOVIET POSITION ON PROTOCOL II: GROSS ESPIELL SAID
THAT THE RECENT MEXICAN OVERTURE TOWARD THE SOVIET UNION
TO ENCOURAGE ITS SIGNING OF PROTOCOL II FAILED. HOWEVER,
SOVIET OPPOSITION TO SIGNING OF PROTOCOL II HAS ESSEN-
Tially BEEN REDUCED TO THE FAILURE OF THE TREATY OF
TLATELOLCO TO DEAL WITH TRANSIT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

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THEREFORE, ON MARCH 31 GROSS ESPIELL PROPOSED TO THE
USSR, VIA SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO, A NEW FORMULA
WHEREBY THE SOVIETS COULD SIGN PROTOCOL II. THE PROPOSAL
IS THAT THE SOVIETS SIGN PROTOCOL II WITH AN ACCOMPANY-
ING STATEMENT THAT THE USSR INTERPRETS ARTICLE I OF THE
TREATY OF TLATELOLCO AS PROHIBITING TRANSIT OF NUCLEAR
WEAPONS THROUGH THE TERRITORY ENCOMPASSED BY THE TREATY.

GROSS SAID THAT HE AND GARCIA ROBLES HAD DEVISED THIS PROPOSAL. IN ADDITION GROSS HAS REQUESTED AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH SOVIET OFFICIALS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL ON DISARMAMENT ISSUES DURING GROSS' VISIT TO THE IAEA IN OCTOBER.

B) BRAZIL: GROSS ESPIELL BELIEVES THAT THE BRAZILIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD OPANAL HAS CHANGED IN RESPONSE TO THE UNFAVORABLE PUBLICITY BRAZIL HAS RECEIVED AS A RESULT OF THE NUCLEAR DEAL WITH WEST GERMANY. GROSS POINTED TO THE BRAZILIAN "WHITE PAPER" ON NUCLEAR POLICY CIRCULATED LAST MONTH IN WHICH BRAZIL LAUDED ITS SIGNING AND RATIFICATION OF THE TREATY AND IN WHICH BRAZIL STATED IT WILL DO NOTHING TO FRUSTRATE THE EVENTUAL APPLICATION OF THE TREATY TO BRAZIL (PARAGRAPH 26). GROSS CLAIMS THAT THIS LATTER STATEMENT IS A DIRECT RESPONSE TO HIS PLEAS TO BRAZIL OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS. GROSS ESPIELL IS MOST CONCERNED THAT WASHINGTON STUDY THE BRAZILIAN WHITE PAPER IN THIS REGARD. HE HAS RECEIVED A LETTER DATED MARCH 18 FROM BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ON OPANAL, IN WHICH HE SAYS BRAZIL TAKES A NEW POSITION ON THE RESERVATIONS ENCOMPASSED IN ARTICLE 28 OF THE TREATY: BRAZIL WILL MAKE ITS ADHERENCE TO THE TREATY CONDITIONED ONLY ON SUPER-POWER ADHERENCE TO PROTOCOLS I AND II. EMBASSY HAS COPY OF THE LETTER, WHICH IS IN PORTUGUESE, AND WILL FORWARD COPY IMMEDIATELY TO EINHORN/ACDA.

C) CUBA: GROSS ESPIELL AND THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF OPANAL HAVE MADE A DECISION TO RENEW PRESSURE ON CUBA TO SIGN THE TREATY. AS RECENTLY AS SIX MONTHS AGO, FORMER CONFIDENTIAL

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FOREIGN MINISTER RAUL ROA INDICATED TO GROSS ESPIELL THAT CUBA WOULD NOT SIGN AS LONG AS GUANTANAMO BASE EXISTS. WITH THE DEPARTURE OF ROA, GROSS FEELS IT IS WORTHWHILE TO TRY AGAIN AND IS OBVIOUSLY HOPING A FORWARD US POSITION ON PROTOCOL I AS IT RELATES TO GUANTANAMO WOULD HELP PUSH CUBA IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

D) VENEZUELA: GROSS IS ALSO OPTIMISTIC THAT VENEZUELA CAN BE PRESSURED INTO ALLOWING GUYANA TO BECOME A SIGNATORY TO THE TREATY. HE BELIEVES THAT HE CAN CONVINCE THE GOV TO REVERSE ITS POSITION SINCE GUYANA'S ADHERENCE TO THE TREATY HAS NOTHING BUT ADVANTAGES FOR VENEZUELA. HE IS IN CLOSE COMMUNICATION WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER NOW AND WILL PRESSURE FOR A POSITIVE MOVE ON THE PART OF VENEZUELA DURING THE UPCOMING MEETING OF OPANAL IN CARACAS.

E) US: GROSS ESPIELL HAS AN APPOINTMENT WITH CHARGE THOMPSON ON APRIL 12 DURING WHICH HE WILL MAKE AN OFFER

TO THE US TO TAKE THE FLOOR DURING THE OPANAL CARACAS MEETING. GROSS TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE WOULD BE HAPPY IF WE COULD MAKE A NEW STATEMENT ON PROTOCOL I WHICH WOULD AT LEAST "MOVE US ONE STEP FURTHER" OR IF WE WOULD AT LEAST TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO REITERATE OUR POSITION AS EXPRESSED AT THE FEBRUARY 14 MEETING. WE WILL REPORT FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT AFTER GROSS' APPOINTMENT WITH THE CHARGE. ANY INSTRUCTIONS DEPT. MAY WISH TO SEND SHOULD REACH US BY APRIL 11.

2. IN INFORMAL COMMENTS TO QUESTER AND EMBOFF, GROSS ESPIELL INDICATED THAT HE WAS PLEASED WITH PRESIDENT CARTER'S POLICY IN THE AREA OF NON-PROLIFERATION. HE INDICATED THE US SHOULD NOT BE DISILLUSIONED BY INITIAL NEGATIVE REACTIONS FROM COUNTRIES LIKE BRAZIL OR THE SOVIET UNION. HE SAID THAT SUCH REACTIONS WERE NATURAL CONSIDERING THE "SHOCK" CAUSED BY THE CHANGE IN US POLICY. CONFIDENTIAL

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HE SAID "THE US WON'T GET 100 PERCENT OF WHAT IT WANTS", BUT WILL CERTAINLY GET MORE PROGRESS IN THE FIELD OF DISARMAMENT THAN IT WOULD HAVE WITH PAST POLICIES. THOMPSON UNQTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: DISARMAMENT, LIMITED TEST BAN TREATY, NPT, POLICIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
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